GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2739
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
COCONUT CROP AS A TREE TOP OILSEED
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether coconut crop has been declared as a tree-top oilseed;

(b) if so, whether the entire benefits available to the oilseed crops are available to coconut;

(c) if not, details of the benefits available and those not available to coconut;

(d) whether the Government are likely to consider making all benefits available to coconut; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (c): Coconut was declared as an oilseed of tree origin in October, 1990. The declaration also states that since it is of tree origin, it should not be treated like annual oilseeds. The intention of the declaration was to emphasise the importance of coconut as an oilseed for price support operation. Government continue to treat coconut as an oilseed of tree origin and provide support for coconut development and fix Minimum Support Price for milling copra and ball copra. Accordingly, the Government of India is regularly fixing minimum support price for milling copra as well as for ball copra of fair average quality. The price fixed for the season 2000 for procurement of milling copra is Rs.3250/- per quintal and that of ball copra is Rs.3500/- per quintal.

The Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses is supporting 9 oilseeds viz, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, castor, nigerseed, rapeseed-mustard, safflower and linseed under Oilseeds Production Programme covering an area of 267.12 lakh ha. with an annual allocation of Rs.109.10 crores as compared to the annual allocation of Rs. 20 crores for the development of coconut in an area of 19.10 lakh ha. Therfore, the annual investment of Government of India works out to Rs.110.00 per hectare for coconut and Rs.40.83 per hectare for annual oilseed crops which are covered under Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses. Thus it is clear that Government of India provides adequate support for all the relevant activities for development of coconut through Coconut Development Board which is higher than the support provided to oilseed crops through Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses.

(d) & (e): Coconut Development Board under the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India` with a financial outlay of Rs. 105 crores during the 9th Plan period which, inter alia, include production and distribution of planting material; expansion of area under coconut; integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement; technology demonstration; market promotion and statistics; information technology. An amount of Rs.20 crores has been provided during the current year 2000-2001 for implementation of above schemes with the object of increasing production and productivity of coconut, product diversification and by-product utilisation.